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Pat Flint 733-5871

STEPHENTOWN
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 11
 Stephentown, NY 12168
 Email: shs@fairpoint.net
 Web:
 www.stephentown-
 historical.org
 Phone: 518-733-6070

The Heritage Center is open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Fridays and by appointment.

It will be closed for the following dates in 2016: Presidents' Day (2/12), Good Friday (3/25), Memorial Day (5/27), Strawberry Festival (6/17 tentatively), Tag Sale (8/6), Labor Day (9/2), Columbus Day (10/7), Thanksgiving (11/25), Closed for the Month of December

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NEWSLETTER

Stephentown Men's Artisan Showcase

The Stephentown Historical Society showcased the talents of Stephentown men who are artists and craftsmen on Saturday, April 9th. Visitors viewed wood working, metal art sculptures, artwork, restored vehicles, and Shaker oval boxes. John Hoffman made napkin holders and salt and pepper shakers. Bob Tibbetts made a pen, letter opener and key fob of exotic wood that was raffled off to benefit the Historical Society.



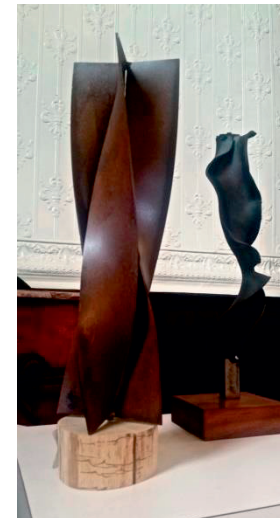
Bill Jackson's Metal Work



Bob Adler's Restored Truck



Restored Car by Bob Mittnacht



Military Models by Neil Krebs



Painting by Steve Pentak



Paintings by Bill Haight



Woodworking by Anthony Beverly



Shaker Oval Boxes by Cliff Myers

A visit from
General U.S. Grant
An historic interpretation by
 Steve Trimm
Grant Cottage, NYS Historic Site



General Ulysses S. Grant, in the person of Steve Trimm, visited the Stephentown Historical Society on Monday, May 2. Trimm portrayed General Grant recalling his life ... family, Civil War, and Presidency.

Trimm is on the staff at the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage N. Y. State Historic Site in Wilton, New York. This southern Adirondack cottage is where Grant spent the final six weeks of his life completing his autobiography. He was surrounded by his family, doctors and servants. Throat cancer was about to claim the man and he was literally racing death to complete his Memoirs. If they sold well enough, they would save his family from humiliating poverty. The Grants were broke, victims of the swindle of their life savings. After Grant's death, the memoir was published by his friend Mark Twain and was a great success.

Grant Cottage remains essentially as it was in 1885 during the Grant family stay. The site is open from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. Check their website for days and hours and the many special events scheduled throughout the season: <http://www.grantcottage.org>. The Stephentown Historical Society members will be making a trip to the Grant Cottage on July 27.

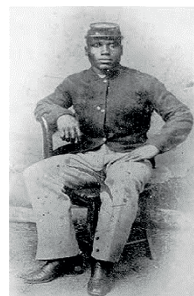
1912 Steam Car

By Christopher Coon



An Outdoor Historical Society Meeting June 6 showing the Steam Automobile.

American History Through Reuben's Eyes *By Gerry Robinson*



Reuben Aaron Waller
 Jan. 5, 1840 – Aug. 20, 1945



National Archive photo of Buffalo Soldiers guarding a stagecoach.

Stephentown resident Gerry Robinson did a presentation about his great grandfather, Reuben Waller, illustrated his life born into slavery and fought in multiple wars during the Civil War era. In 1861, Reuben's master, a Confederate general, took Reuben with him as a body servant thru 29 battles. On April 12, 1864 – Reuben was present at the "Fort Pillow Massacre" where Confederate troops slaughtered over 50 surrendering Black Union troops. While with Stonewall Jackson's cavalry, Reuben engendered a great liking for the cavalry soldiers. On July 16th, 1867, he went to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where Colonel I.H. Carpenter was raising the 10th U.S. cavalry, notable winners of the West, and he enlisted for the Indian War that was then raging in remote Kansas and Colorado. "We plunged right into the fights--Beaver Creek, Sand Creek, Cheyenne Wells and many others". Very high standards of recruitment were set by the regimental commander and Civil War hero Benjamin Grierson. As a result, recruitment and organization of the unit required slightly over one year. By the end of July 1867 eight companies of enlisted men had been recruited from the Departments of Missouri, Arkansas, and the Platte. Life at Leavenworth was not pleasant for the 10th. The Fort's commander, who was admittedly opposed to African-Americans serving in the regular army, made life as difficult as he could on the new troopers. Grierson sought to have his regiment transferred, and subsequently received orders moving the regiment to Fort Riley, Kansas later that summer. Within two months of the transfer, the final four companies were in place. A young Lieutenant traveling with his wife, he endured what must have been the dilemma of Reuben and the Buffalo Soldiers at the time. Through Reuben's experiences in the Plains Indian Wars he became acquainted with many notable winners of the west and vanquished Indian chiefs and leaders including William Comstock and Kit Carson. Reuben died August 20, 1945 at the age of 105 years, 7 months and 15 days. Since his slavery days and the end of the Plains Indian wars, he had not had a serious illness, outliving four wives. He lived through 10 decades of the transformation of race relations in Kansas and American history.

Gerry Robinson



Annual Strawberry Festival

This year the Historical Society's Strawberry Festival fund raiser was held at Gardner's Picnic area, next to the Ice Cream and Coffee Shoppe. The event was held Sunday, June 26 serving Strawberry Shortcake, Strawberry Rhubarb pies, Strawberry Sundaes & more.



THE HERITAGE CENTER is open and staffed by The Stephentown Historical Society most Fridays from 1 pm to 4 pm. Visit to see the exhibitions and carefully cataloged artifacts from the local area. Alternate appointment times can be made with Curator Bev McClave at 733-5170.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR THE STEPHENTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JULY-DECEMBER 2016

Wednesday, July 27 - Field Trip to Grant Cottage, State Historic Site and the Saratoga Battlefield - Meet at the Heritage Center for a 9 am departure via car pool. Bring a bag lunch.

Monday, August 1 - Martin Van Buren - Chief Ranger, Planter and Plain Republican - James McKay

Monday, September 12 - TBD

Monday, October 3 - Sustenance and Style: Dining and Food Ways of the 17th Century Dutch in the Hudson Valley - Heidi Hill

Sunday, November 6 - 2:00 pm Meeting - Wings over Stephentown: The Stinson "Flying Station Wagon" - Dana Tarr

Sunday, December 4 - 1:00 pm - Carry-in Dinner

The Stephentown Historical Society welcomes all to its monthly meetings and entertaining presentations with refreshments to follow. The gathering begins at 7:30 pm on the first Monday each month (unless listed otherwise in the above Program Schedule), at the Stephentown Heritage Center, 4 Staples Road (corner of Garfield Road), Stephentown, New York. The program is free and open to the public and the building is handicapped accessible. For directions, telephone (518) 733-0010.